

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015055
ORIGIN ARA-10

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O 230456Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015055

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, (LAVIN, JAIME)

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CMDT. JAIME LAVIN

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 3540
(B) DRISCOLL-BOYATT TELCOM: 22 JAN

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER IN SAN FRANCISCO HAS
ALLEGED THAT LAVIN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN TORTURE
IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 1973 COUP. IT
HAS A TAPED AFFADAVIT FROM EX COL. ROLANDO MIRANDA

PINTO (REF A). WHAT FOLLOWS ARE HIS CHARGES AGAINST
LAVIN AS RELATED ON THE TELEPHONE TO THE DESK BY THE
SAN FRANCISCO AMNESTY REPRESENTATIVE.

--HE STATES THAT HE WAS A CLASSMATE OF LAVIN'S AND USED
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TO RIDE THE BUS TO WORK WITH HIM. HE SAYS THAT HE WAS
ARRESTED ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1973 RPT SEPTEMBER 14. HE
WAS TAKEN TO THE LA COLINA AIR BASE. THERE HE SUFFERED A
HEART ATTACK AND WAS TAKEN TO THE AIR WAR COLLEGE (AGA).
IN SPITE OF HIS HEART ATTACK, HE CLAIMS THAT LAVIN
TORTURED HIM THREE TIMES:

--AT AGA HE WAS SHUT INTO A ROOM AND GIVEN NO FOOD. HE POUNDED ON THE DOOR TO ASK TO BE FED. LAVIN OPENED THE DOOR AND ASKED WHAT HE WANTED; MIRANDA BEGGED FOR FOOD; LAVIN KICKED HIM AND TOLD HIM NOT TO MAKE SO MUCH NOISE.

--SOMETIME DURING SEPTEMBER 25-27 HE WAS BEING INTERROGATED. HE WAS LYING ON HIS STOMACH ON THE FLOOR WHEN LAVIN ENTERED THE ROOM AND WALKED ON HIS BACK WITH HIS HEAVY BOOTS.

--ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 30 HE WAS BEING INTERROGATED ON THE "PARRILLA" BY TWO OFFICERS NAMED CEVALLOS AND CACERES. LAVIN WAS TURNING THE CRANK ON THE TELEPHONE GENERATOR.

AMNESTY CLAIMS THAT AN EX FACH NCO AND CAPTAIN CARLOS CARBACHO CAN CONFIRM MIRANDA'S STORY.

2. AMNESTY FURTHER ALLEGES THAT LAVIN WAS THE "SECRETARIO" TO GENERAL ORLANDO GUTIERREZ BRAVOS, THE FISCAL DURING THE FACH TRIALS. AMNESTY ALSO CLAIMS THAT LAVIN PHYSICALLY LIVED AT THE AGA UNTIL DECEMBER 1973 SO THAT HE COULD BE CLOSER TO HIS "WORK." THE SAN FRANCISCO AMNESTY REPRESENTATIVE ALSO SAYS THAT LAVIN APPEARS IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE RUSSELL TRIBUNAL AGAINST ATROCITIES IN CHILE. THE SPECIFIC SECTION IS ENTITLED "DENUNCIAS Y TESTIMONIOS" PAGE 170. ALL OTHER DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES THE RUSSELL TRIBUNAL. (THE DESK DOES NOT HAVE A COPY OF THE PROCEEDINGS READILY AVAILABLE.)
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3. DURING HIS VISIT TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY JANUARY 17 A DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD AGAINST LAVIN. ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD AGAINST HIM WHILE HE ADDRESSED THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB IN SAN FRANCISCO. AMNESTY PROMISES MORE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR HIS VISITS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THIS COMING WEEK. WE DO NOT THINK LAVIN IS IN ANY PHYSICAL DANGER, NOR DOES HE SEEM TO BE AFFECTED BY THE DEMONSTRATIONS

4. WE FORESEE A MAJOR PRESS AND SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST LAVIN AND THE DEPARTMENT. THE NEW YORK TIMES IS ALREADY ONTO THE STORY. WE EXPECT AN ARTICLE EITHER ON SUNDAY OR MONDAY. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER HAS ALREADY TAKEN AN INTEREST.

5. THE QUESTIONS IN REF B WERE:

A. WHERE ARE THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND THE AIR WAR COLLEGE PHYSICALLY LOCATED?

B. IN WHICH DID FACH INTELLIGENCE ALLEGEDLY CONDUCT TORTURE?

C. OF WHICH WAS LAVIN DEPUTY COMMANDER?

D. WHAT WERE LAVIN'S DUTY STATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 1973 UNTIL JUNE, 1975?

E. DID LAVIN PARTICIPATE IN THE FACH TRIAL?

6. IF THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THESE ALLEGATIONS, WE SHALL HAVE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER CUTTING LAVIN'S VISIT SHORT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS; BUT IF THE ALLEGATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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TRUE, WE WOULD HAVE TO CONFRONT THIS ISSUE HEADON. THUS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS--IF ACTION SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY--ON HOW THIS MIGHT BEST BE DONE.
HABIB

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